

and independent both of Turk and Kurd, they render a sort of obedience to Mar Shimim, who rules them, through their *malejcs*. There is not only enmity between tribe and tribe, but between village and village, and, as in parts of the Bakhtiari country, guides refuse to conduct travellers beyond certain spots, declaring that " blood" bars their farther progress.

Besides the Kurdish and Ashiret inhabitants of these mountains of Kurdistan there are Yezidis, usually called devil-worshippers, and a few Jews and Armenians. Probably there is not a wilder population on the face of the earth, or one of whose ideas, real beliefs, and ways Europeans are so ignorant. What, for instance, do we really know of the beliefs which underlie the religious customs of the Kizilbashs and Yezidis, and of the Christianity to which these semi-savage Ashirets are so passionately attached ?

If I were to leave Mr. Browne unnoticed I should ignore the most remarkable character in Kocllanes. Clothed partly as a Syrian and living altogether like one,—at this time speaking Syriac more readily than English; limited to this narrow alp and to the narrower exile of the Tyari valley; self-exiled from civilised society; snowed up for many months of the year; his communications even with Van and Urmi irregular and precarious ; a priest without an altar; a teacher without pupils; a hermit without privacy; his time at the disposal of every one who cares to waste it; harassed by Turkish officialism and obstruction, and prohibited by the Porte from any active

" mission work," it yet would be hard to find
a sunnier,
more loving, and more buoyant spirit. He has
lived among
these people for nearly four years as one of
themselves,
making their interests completely his own,
suffering keenly
in their persecutions and losses, and
entering warmly
even into their most trivial concerns, till he
has become
in fact a Syrian among Syrians. He sits on
the floor in